

**Commission for Child Care
Roth's West Salem Hospitality Center
September 25, 2009**

Attendees: Jan East, Meghan Moyer, Deborah Murray, Randy Fishfader, Rosetta Wangerin, Cheryl Reece, Senator Rod Monroe, Janice O'Malley, Katie Larive, Alex Burke (Rep. Kotek)

Guests: Beth Unverzagt, Kathleen Hynes, Teresa Stevenson, Heidi McGowan, Tom Olsen, Rhonda Prodzinski, Faye Zepeda, Pam Deardorff, Ron Sohnrey, Rebecca Whittaker, Ruth Crawmer, Russ Crawmer, Julie Petrokubi, Sonja Svenson, Bobbie Weber, Mark Anderson, Julie Smith

Introductions

Business

Minutes

Rosetta entertained a motion to accept the minutes as written, Deborah Murray so motioned, Randy Fishfader second. Approved

Angland Award – In order to update our new commissioners, it was explained that Lynne Angland was a treasured commissioner that we lost last year in an auto accident. In Lynne's honor the Commission will give an annual award to someone making a difference in child care. The Commission has received four nominations and a committee of three Commissioners and some of Lynne's family members will be reviewing and recommending the final recipient. The award will be formally presented at the meeting in October in Bend. The Board of Accountancy will also give an award to Lynne's family in her honor at the same time.

Tillamook Forum

See attached forum results.

Senator Monroe asked if we discuss teen parent programs at the Commission. Rosetta clarified that teen parent programs take place in high schools. Sonja said CCD has a contract with Dept. of Ed. of nearly 400k for 2 years to support start up of teen parent programs. DHS gives subsidies to some teen parents but some teens fall through the cracks which needs to be discussed when we reconvene the affordability workgroup. Sonja affirmed that we do have programs where faculty can also use the facilities but the teens always have the priority.

Rosetta clarified that the affordability workgroup convened years ago to address affordability recommendations for child care. The workgroup is needed right now to identify if we have to make reductions.

EQUIP Update

Janice OMalley asked about the potential of the early learning challenge grant and the potential for more funding for Oregon.

Sen. Monroe said he sits on the board of Mt. Hood Community College and they see enrollment going down in the ECE programs because the graduates don't get paid enough. What do we do about this, we want the best quality people yet who is going to sign up when they know that the salary they receive won't be enough to live on? Deborah said we have hit the perfect storm this fall by supporting the Head Start expansion and their enrollment is appropriately up. In addition, three local elementary schools have opened free pre-k programs. Deborah noted that her site has always had a waiting list with 40 kids enrolled in the program now has only 20 children enrolled. Parents are saying "I can't turn down free." The preschool enrollment has been a key to financially sustaining the program. In addition, several parents have lost their job or ERDC and the children are experiencing instability while parents are job searching. Families are patch-working child care options which is creating chaos for kids. Beth noted a similar situation occurred with public funded kindergarten when it was implemented.

Tom noted that one of the most important parts of EQUIP is to help community based child care be ready to take Head Start placements which will be followed with Head Start funding.

Pam noted that as of the end of the fiscal quarter. People were already on the registry were 499, 265 new folks on registry from the middle of June through about the middle of September as a result of the Oregon Registry campaign.

Portland School Age Discussion – Beth, Julie P

Beth Unverzagt of Oregon ASK and Julie Petrokubi of Campfire came to ask the Commission to sanction a workgroup on school age barriers and the regulations that currently exist.

Kathleen explained that there are a number of programs that have been funded by entities that contract with schools to run programs onsite as a service to the students and families. It is the same issue that led CCD to come to the Commission to help provide guidance on which of these programs should be licensed or not licensed. What came out of this is that programs that are exempt will become recorded, background checks will need to be conducted and parents informed that the program is not licensed. A secondary matter has arisen that some of the grant funded programs that operate in schools co-exist in schools with licensed programs. Licensed programs cost money for parents because they have standards to meet where other programs not licensed and/or funded can be low cost or free. Beth is asking the Commission to help with this issue.

Beth said the CCD is put in a position of having to evaluate programs if they should be licensed and Beth sees this as an opportunity to look at the barriers of operating school age programs and look at other states for how programs can

co-exist together. This has been creating conflict within schools. When schools are allowing multiple programs under one roof licensed programs can't do it.

Julie handed out a summary of how states have dealt with this nationally. Campfire runs a wide range of programs. Key challenges experienced is that school based programs have to re-inspect with fire and health departments who have already checked the building for the school. There are also conflicting requirements between schools and programs. For example, Portland Public schools won't allow programs to use bleach but CCD requires it. Programs are often asked to move from a classroom that has been approved to one that may not have screens on the windows, or there isn't enough sawdust on the playground to meet the CCD licensing requirements. These challenges can get in the way of partnering with schools and continuing operating. Deborah noted another huge obstacle is that when we try to collaborate in these environments the child care providers get painted into a corner of being non-collaborative because the providers is bound by regulation. It creates a perception from the community that child care providers don't play nice. How do we serve the kids that we know need to not be loose in the community between 3:00pm and 6:00pm?

Pam asked if the DOE has requirements such as the playground level of sawdust that are based on research to keep kids safe. Beth affirmed that they do but may not monitor it. Deborah explained that there are other issues such as licensed programs have a 1 adult to 15 kids whereas the schools have much higher classroom adult child ratios.

Rosetta asked Beth to clarify that she is asking the Commission to sanction a workgroup. What would be the outcomes? Beth said she would like to invite the Sun Schools group to the table, who are the largest exempt group, review what other states are doing (see attached document from NCCIC), identify how we can get programs to get together and do a survey of the state to get feedback about barriers. Jeannie Suikonen's daughter is getting her Masters at PSU and is interested in taking on this topic as part of her Master's thesis. Beth said she would like anyone who wants to be involved in this to do so.

Rosetta asked if anyone would make a motion to support this request. Randy moved to support this request to sanction a workgroup for school age review. Janice second. Approved

Next Steps: Oct. 5th is a meeting with the Sun Schools and CCD and will make a call to pull together 10-15 people to come back with some recommendations. Julie thanked the Commission because it is a dynamic time in the field. Rosetta asked that they be deliberate in looking at the whole state and include folks. Deborah noted that this is not about more research and that there is a lot of information available. We need to look at how to reflect this in our policies and practices here in Oregon and apply it.

Child Care Quality Indicators Program – Julie Smith, Bobbie Weber

See attached PowerPoint for overview of the quality program indicators.

The pilot data reflects inconsistencies in group size and ratio which demonstrates we need to work more on collecting accurate data on these indicators. The other indicators are fairly consistent as they continue to get better data; any change in the indicators can be attributed to real changes in the field. The training and education indicator will get more reliable when TED is implemented which will enable QIP to have verified information.

Deborah noted that NAEYC met in Oregon this year. NAEYC said they are concerned about the drop in accredited programs. One of the biggest obstacles is staff education.

Randy asked if we know where Oregon is for accreditation compared nationally. Bobbie reported Oregon is low.

Julie P asked if the data could be broken out for school age programs. It is noted on reports for group size and ratio.

Preliminary Subsidy Study – Bobbie Weber

OSU has been engaged in a study on the impact of subsidy policy on parents child care and employment decisions based on the changes in Oct. 2007 to identify policy impacts. Qualitative interviews with 25 parent interviews, revise, conduct 15 more interviews. Focus is employment and child care and the impact of child care. A telephone survey of 500 subsidy recipients is taking place. Reports will be ready in fall, 2010.

Initial findings:

1. Parents were not aware of subsidy policy changes
2. Reason did not notice change: fluctuation in parents cost burden always goes up and down.
3. More care needed than able to be supported by subsidy
4. Type of care parents use is associated with presence of a social network (families using center care typically don't have a social network)
5. When asked of the impact of loss of subsidy all reported some version of "Oh, I couldn't work"
6. Gratitude for what the program means made it difficult for parents to criticize program
 - a. caseworker discretion and inconsistencies
 - b. hard to get time with caseworker

Advice from committee:

1. collect more data on these families and replace parent interviews with providers

2. request expansion of study from CCD and

Findings:

1. attempted to re-interview 25 parents and get permission to interview provider and access administrative records
 - a. could define copay accurately as cost burden
 - b. 8 providers interviewed knew of policy change
 - c. reported major impacts for families they serve and their business (when cuts occurred had to let go of subsidy families and when subsidy renewed, families were asked to come back)

List of research questions – tentative list includes: what causes fluctuation in cost burden? Does fluctuation affect choice of care type? What is the role of social networks in care type selection?

Possible questions: why do eligible parents not continue in subsidy program? What happens to a subsidized child care arrangement when the subsidy ends?

Bobbie applied for more funding from Federal Health & Human Services to provide an entire picture to understand the affect of subsidy policy on families.

State Child Care Data – Bobbie Weber

Bobbie provided report of recent data on state and county child care. How and when should we mail? Meghan noted that from a lobbyist point of view it would be valuable to do now and communicate with different documents at many times. Deborah noted that Sen. Monroe commented “often and early.” This tells me we need to build relationships now with legislators and get real stories into them. As a spouse of a former legislator knows that early and often is huge and lets them know that there are other people besides SEIU and AFSCME.

Teresa, Rosetta and Heidi will send out a few talking points if individuals would like to meet with legislators re: child care data. Cheryl raised the clean box bill again. Rosetta noted we are planning to meet with ACLU.

Deborah noted that many legislators are going paperless and Alex recommended bringing something catchy.

Subsidy Funding/Programs for 07-09 – Rhonda

A question surfaced in the Commission June meeting regarding the amount of funds spent on child care. The exempt family child care is \$660,000/bienium for mandatory orientations. The funding for licensed providers in the child care system is \$2,052,477 (see attached document).

Rhonda noted that Kim Cardona got a new position at the foods program and therefore Rhonda will report on the FFN evaluation. In 2006 the OCCF provided

funding for Toni Porter to come to Oregon as a known researcher on FFN. The orientation includes information about the subsidy, training, R&R's, the food program and the hope is providers will receive additional training to receive the enhanced rate.

An evaluation was completed on the FFN toolkit. Approximately 1000 have been distributed. Through June, 596 providers have taken the additional training and receive the enhanced rate.

The evaluation demonstrated results such as reporting and increase in usage of the public library from 57% to 70%. 95% of caregivers who received a toolkit were female. 68% had been providing care for less than three years. 79% had obtained a high school diploma or less. 45% described themselves as a relative and 13% reported they cared for both relatives and non-relatives. 71% indicated they cared for more than one age group.

Mark noted this is unique in the country in that SEIU and DHS have an agreement and DHS contracts with OCCRRN to deliver the training. Often in other states SEIU contracts directly with an organization to offer the training.

FFN will continue to report back to us.

Fall agenda & workplan for the year – Heidi & Teresa

Heidi asked the Commissioner's and guests to add agenda items to the Oct., Nov. draft, which was passed around. A draft of the current workplan for the Commission was also included in packets for this month.